

whose learning will add further lustre to the Amoy constellation.

Interpreter Ching is a native of Canton and first saw the light of day and the other strange sights that the City of Rams alone can exhibit, 33 years ago. The atmosphere of his native City, however, was too misty for the ardent instincts and boundless desires of this rising young man who, at the age of 21, sought fresh fields and pastures new in the broad lands of the United States, where he completed his education and in due course became a naturalized citizen of that great country. His early training was gained in the Norwich Connecticut Academy from which institution he graduated with high honors, receiving first prize for rhetoric and declamation—no light feat this, for a foreigner to perform. He subsequently followed out a course of scientific studies at Yale, and had the proud distinction of being the only Chinese graduate from that distinguished College. Besides his other brilliant accomplishments Ching has the mastery of nine languages. He also possesses an absolute knowledge of both Chinese and American laws, and to this as well as to the fact that he is a most enthusiastic American citizen led to his nomination, by Doctor Bedloe, to the Amoy Consulate.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MEKONG VALLEY.

HOW A BRITISH EXPLORER FOUND IT.

"Magna est veritas et prevalebit."

During the past two years the Press of the Far East has, from time to time, contained, brief reports of the Upper Mekong Valley region, otherwise the Eastern frontier of Siam. Most of the stories, especially those appearing in Tonquin papers, contained somewhat graphic descriptions of the "magnificent valley," "the richest and most fertile region of the Far East," whose richest untold and resources inexhaustible would have remained a terra incognita, even to neighbouring nations, but for the energy, enterprise, and determination of the French; and, what is worse, its "myriad inhabitants would," as are told in the *Siam Mercantile Gazette* and *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, (two obscure papers, whose Editors have suddenly assumed the rôle of 19th century Saviours!) "be steeped in ignorance, savagery, lawlessness, rapacity, and the evils of slave-hunting; deliver the down-trodden inhabitants from the grasp of unprincipled, grasping officials." All this looks well enough from an outsider's point of view, and it constitutes, more or less, interesting and sensational matter for the columns of public journals. When, however, it is viewed in the light of recent official utterances, and the commitment of himself to a "forward policy," by M. de Lanessan, the new Governor-General of French Indo-China, there is a plain duty before us and that is the task of publicly setting forth the truth about this alleged "land flowing with milk and honey" and "this so-called El Dorado" of the Far East. With this object in view a representative of the Journal called upon a gentleman (Mr. W. J. Archer of H.B.M. Consular Service) who has recently returned to Bangkok after a four months' journey in the Mekong Valley, and round the eastern, northern, north-western and western frontiers of Siam. What this gentleman has to say about the Mekong Valley region, its people, the resources of the Luang Prabang region, the government of the country etc., etc., may, we think, be taken as the latest authentic information respecting a portion of the Kingdom of Siam which appears destined, whether deservedly or not, to make its mark in history, or rather form a conspicuous chapter in the records of 19th century episodes.

Before relating the evidence adduced at the interview so kindly accorded us, it may assist the reader to grasp the situation readily if we publish herewith a brief historical sketch of Siam, ancient and modern, gathered from the highest and most reliable sources of information, thus:—

It was in the year 1767 that the old capital of Siam, Ayutthia, was destroyed, the king and his family taken prisoners and his dynasty extinguished. The Shan and Laos States then became independent, and the Kingdom of Siam was divided into a number of petty principalities, each under a prince of the late dynasty; and Tenasserim was annexed by the Burmese invaders, to become, in 1824, a British province. The Siamese armies were dispersed and the Government thoroughly shattered. A general, Phya Tak, of Chinese descent, nevertheless gathered together the remnants of the troops, and drove the Burmese out of Ayutthia in 1767. He assumed the throne in 1768, re-conquering southern Siam, Korat, northern Siam, and the Malay States, successively. He made his capital in 1769, and founded modern Bangkok. The first king of the present dynasty began to reign in 1782. A Chinese invasion of Burma, as stated in Mr. Robert Gordon's paper on Siam, resulted in the Burmese for a time, and the occupation of Martaban by the British, in 1824, effectively prevented further Burmese invasions of Siam. Peace thus secured from outside wars was utilized to reconstruct the kingdom. Chiening, and all the Lao States, were conquered and attached to the kingdom. Winchaw was the last State to make a desperate resistance, but was finally destroyed in 1828; and Luang Prabang and Siam were brought under direct Siamese rule, although the old chiefs were allowed to retain their titles and positions. The Lao had driven the Cambojians out of their northern provinces, which were annexed to Siam, and what remained of the old empire of Kam was compelled to acknowledge the protectorate of Siam.

The first treaty concluded between Siam and a foreign Power was an *un fait accompli* in 1826 and is known as the "Burney" treaty. That treaty became a dead letter, and the treaty under which British subjects conduct trade here is the one negotiated by Sir John Bowring with the present King of Siam in 1826.

In reply to numerous questions Mr. Archer courteously vouchsafed the following interesting information:—

As to the boundaries of Siam I cannot answer you precisely, for, as you yourself state, there are unsettled disputes about the Eastern and Northern frontiers. In addition to that the British Government has not yet settled the question of the Shan-Siam frontier although there are, it may be said, no elements connected with it that present possible or probable insuperable difficulties.

It is preposterous to state that the Luang Prabang region is magnificent! Certainly it is, as M. Pavie, the Chief of the Siam Frontier Commission, must know very well. Probably, however, M. Macey, a Frenchman who has travelled all over that region with goods that he can find no market for and is never likely to be able to batter on-shell at a profit, can speak more authoritatively on the subject than anyone else, for his experience has been anything but pleasant, from a business-man's point of view at all events. I have been up to Montong, where I was received most hospitably, and I am bound to admit that Luang Prabang and the Laos country seem to be the best governed parts of Siam. There is, however, not much to be done in the way of government for the town of Luang Prabang contains but 10,000 people at the outside, and the country for upwards of 300 miles around it, and away down the Mekong to Nong Kai, is extremely mountainous and very

sparingly populated. As to the alleged "squealing" propensities of the officials and the mal-administration of justice, all I can say is that the official who could squeeze a ten-cent piece out of the half-starved peasantry would be almost getting blood out of a stone! The fact is that the whole region is extremely mountainous, sparsely populated, very poor, and extremely unhealthy. All the peasants produce is "hill rice," cultivated in patches here and there along the slopes of the mountain ranges. They produce barely enough for their wants, and what with the ravages of malarial fever of a virulent type, and the time occupied in the cultivation of cotton on the hill-sides for use in winter, (of which, too, there is a little exported to Yunnan) added to the time monopolized cultivating enough rice for bare subsistence, by the time winter sets in, the thrifty highlanders of Luang Prabang have a pretty hard fight for life—their lot is, in fine, by no means cast in a bed of roses, on the verge of rich gold-fields, or in a modern El Dorado.

(To be continued.)

THE PROSPECTS OF RICE IN SIAM.

It is probable that there will be a considerable advance in the value of good quality rice in the European market next summer, owing to the falling off of Japanese, Siamese, and Cochinchina exports; and it is reported that the deficiency is not likely to be met by an overplus from other rice-producing countries, such as Burma, Persia and Bengal. This, of course, means a loss to those countries whose produce is scarce; but, *regarding Siam* it will not be without ultimate advantage if the merchants concerned will take steps to prevent "the large admixture of broken rice" of which Messrs. Fraser & Co. complained in their recently published market reports.

"The quality of the Siam grain is complained of on account of the large admixture of broken rice," "most of the early shipments were excellent; but the later season's arrivals left much to be desired." "The shelled rice which arrived in London was very poor, and contained yellow." "With a little more care bestowed on cultivation no doubt most of the Far Eastern kinds will raise their standard." In this vein write those who are authorities on such matters and to these statements we would add that, in view of the undoubted fact that Japan kinds occupy a prominent position in the rice supply of Europe, it would be to the advantage of Siam, were large quantities of Japanese seed-grain imported, distributed amongst the peasants of the chief rice-producing districts of this Kingdom. The Government, though out of pocket at first, would afterwards recoup the initial cost, through the Customs Department together with interest, in the course of a very few years. What benefits the masses, is to the ultimate advantage of the Government and the sooner that fact is fully appreciated the better it will be for all who are paid to guard the welfare and best interests of Siam.

We shall return to this subject later on, and meanwhile append the returns of the export of rice from Bangkok, during the past month, merely prefacing the statistics with a statement to the effect that, on account of the long-continued drought, the exports have fallen off considerably of late and are not likely to show signs of improvement for some time to come.

JUNE, 1891.			
Rice	Broken Rice	Paddy	
pc. c.	pc. c.	pc. c.	
S'pore, 9,005.66	285.99	1,876.80	
H'kong, 96,021.23	2,453.57		
S'gong, 204.13			
Coast, 238.37			
Piculs, 165,523.39	2,739.56	\$1,876.80	
Value \$297,042.10	\$1,465.00	\$2,064.48	

Comparison with corresponding month of 1890.

695,700.74	7,037.48	321.86
Value \$1,252,261.33	\$6,374.73	\$354.04

Decrease: 530,177.35.....4,342.25.....1,554.44

Value: \$954,319.25.....\$3,859.13.....\$1,610.44

—Bangkok Times.

FOOCHOW.

August 1st.

We understand that more than one of our foreign Consuls has telegraphed for a gunboat to come here promptly.

News has reached us, which however requires confirmation, that three foreign missionaries have been killed up country. We can only hope it is incorrect.

In reference to the above we would call special attention to the letter received this morning from Pacificator, and to the translation of the Joint Proclamation of the Tartar General and Governor General.

Rain is much needed to save the second crop of rice from total failure. The offering up of prayers has been gone through, and the propitiations to slaughter pigs for three days been faithfully attended to, but all to no effect so far.

The farmers are in state bordering on despair. The result of their ventures this year, indeed they are well satisfied with the outcome of common sense and second crops, but it makes them wince to find that their profits are simply carried to their credit in account to meet the heavy losses of the past two years, instead of having them to put into their pockets.

The Emperor's birthday yesterday was observed by the closing of the Custom House and the Banks. In the city the mandarins paid their usual visit to the Wen Sei Kung to pay their respects to the Emperor, and in the evening grand banquets were given. Amongst the citizens there were no outward demonstrations of rejoicing.

We are sorry to hear of numerous cases of thieving and robbery in the villages round about the settlement. It has been so systematic in some, that the cottagers have been obliged to close their doors for the night as soon as darkness sets in. With the falling off in the tea trade we fear there are too many unemployed roaming about, and it seems a pity that, willing to work as we are sure they are, something cannot be found for them to do, instead of allowing them to get their food by thieving from people almost as poor as themselves.

We have it on the best authority that some of the members of the Yangtze Koloa Hui have been in the city for some time past, and this seems to be confirmed by the placards which have been making their appearance, corresponding word for word with those posted about the Yangtze port as soon as the attention of the authorities was drawn to them, they were removed, but in the meantime they had been read by thousands. When in addition to this placard sticking, it happens, as is well known, that there are a thousand disbanded Hunan soldiers idling about, ready for any kind of devilry, it is not surprising that some little uneasiness prevails in the port just now.

The following joint proclamation has been issued by the Tartar General and the Governor of Foochow:—

"We have received a communication from the Tung-ti Yamen to the effect that the inner

Intimations.

DURING AUGUST.

LESS THAN COST PRICE.

MODERN FURNITURE

LESS THAN COST PRICE.

NOTICE.—TO PREVENT DAMAGE BY REMOVAL TO OUR NEW GODOWNS, ALL CABINET FURNITURE NOW OFFERING AT PRICES REGARDLESS OF COST.

STORES, 4, Queen's Road.

GODOWNS, Duddell Street.

MOUTRIE, ROBINSON & CO.
(From 7, Broadwood & Sons and Collard & Collard.)
THE PIANO, ORGAN AND MUSIC WAREHOUSE,
UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL,
and at London, Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama.

PIANOS SPECIALLY MADE FOR THIS CLIMATE AND GUARANTEED. MONTHLY PAYMENTS OR HIRE.

TUNING—REPAIRS.

OLD PIANOS TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

16 YEARS extensive experience in China, and the only firm of trained and practical people devoting themselves entirely to the Music and Musical Instrument Trade.

Concill has received the following rescript from His Imperial Majesty.

The Tung-ti Yamen have memorialised us with reference to Missionary cases which have repeatedly cropped up in the various provinces; requesting us to issue stringent instructions to all Viceroys and Governors to take speedy steps for their settlement. With regard to the Missionaries of the various nations the Treaty runs down the right of the West have to the right of the Chinese subjects and are subject to the authority of the native officials; and there is no reason why they should not get on with the rest of the people. However, certain evil disposed people who are to be found all over the country are given to fabricating baseless reports and rioting takes place on the strength of them. We therefore order the Tartar Generals Viceroys and Governors of all Provinces to issue proclamations exhorting the people under them to place no reliance on idle rumours and to refrain from rioting on account of them. Any persons guilty of posting anonymous and lying placards calculated to inflame the minds of the people must be at once hunted down and punished with the utmost rigour of the law. The local authorities must further take steps to insure the safety of the lives and property of the foreign merchants and missionaries, and must not allow the evil disposed of the people to annoy or harm them. If they do not take the most urgent steps to secure their safety, with the result that trouble occurs, we order that they shall be severely censured. Let this one command be made generally known. Such is H.I.M.'s rescript, and of which has been sent to us. We have accordingly ordered the civil and military officers in our jurisdiction to reverently obey the terms of it and we now issue this Proclamation for the information of the military and the populace. Know ye that the converts are still Chinese Subjects and under the jurisdiction of Chinese Officers. In cases of litigation the merits of the cases only will be taken into consideration and no difference made between converts and the rest. The native people must not look on them as aliens, and if a convert does wrong they must prosecute him at the magistrate's court who will try the case and deal with it according to law. We, the Viceroys and the Tartar-General have only justice in our hearts and all case, in our jurisdiction between convert and native will be dealt with equitably and without prejudices or favour. Of later years the converts and people here have got on fairly well together. After this notice the people in their relation, with the converts must throw away all preconceived notions and live in peace without trouble. You must not listen to idle rumours and wantonly break the peace thus laying yourselves open to punishment. Hunting other people is hurting yourselves, for after the offense is committed repentance comes too late. Obey this in trembling.—ECHO.

medicines were prescribed, but deriving little or no relief.

"One evening a friend called, and we talked over my case and the very serious turn it had taken. Presently he said, 'You are not going to die. Have you tried Seigel's Syrup yet?'"

"I confessed that I had not. In fact, I had religiously followed the instructions of my medical adviser. My friend persuaded me to try Seigel's Syrup, and I began at once, taking twenty-drop doses according to the directions. In about a week I felt a little more life in me, and after having finished the second bottle I was convinced that improvement had fairly set in. I continued taking the Syrup until I had consumed ten bottles, then went downstairs to work again, alluding to the Syrup. After having taken from eight to twenty bottles altogether, I found myself entirely well. It is now four years since I took my last dose of Mother Seigel's Syrup for Bright's disease of the kidneys, and I have suffered no symptoms of kidney complaint since."

"(Signed) ROBERT HUTCHINSON, Bachelor, Wellington Street, Auckland, New Zealand."

We print Mr. Hutchinson's statement as he wrote it, as it is not probable that his malady was actually Bright's disease, as that is a degeneration or destruction of the substance of the kidney, and difficult, if not impossible, to cure. What he really suffered from was, no doubt, a debilitated state of the system, originating in indigestion and dyspepsia, with severe kidney symptoms, as is often the case. When we remember that nearly all malaries, including rheumatism, point to indigestion, liver complaint, heart disease, &c., are due to poisons in the blood, arising from fermented food in the digestive tract, we can see why Mother Seigel's Syrup is so successful over so great a variety of apparently diverse diseases. And because of the one source of these complaints, serious and often fatal mistakes are made in the diagnosis and in treatment. The point to emphasize is this: Heart disease, consumption, and Bright's disease are much rarer than they are supposed to be. Generally what seems like them is a group of symptoms of indigestion and dyspepsia. It is always best to take the advice of Mr. Hutchinson's friend when he said, "You are not going to die; try Seigel's Syrup."

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

4th August, 1891.—At 4 p.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Cloud.	Sea.
Wanchow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Ningpo	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Shanghai	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Amoy	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Swatow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Hankow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Yokohama	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Kobe	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Manila	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Cebu	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Colon	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Singapore	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Penang	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Calcutta	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Bombay	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Madras	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Calcutta	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Bombay	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Madras	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100

5th August, 1891.—At 10 a.m.

STATION.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Cloud.	Sea.
Wanchow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Ningpo	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Shanghai	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Amoy	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Swatow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Hankow	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Yokohama	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Kobe	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Manila	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Cebu	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Colon	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Singapore	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Penang	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Calcutta	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Bombay	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Madras	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Calcutta	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Bombay	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
Madras	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100

The Red Ball was taken down at 6 p.m. Barometer is rising slowly. Unsettled gentle rain in southeast winds upon the coast of southern China, and for south-west winds in the Gulf of Thailand. (Issued at 11.45 a.m.)

Hongkong Observatory, 5th August, 1891.

From Messrs. Geo. Falcous & Co.'s Register.

Barometer—30.0

Thermometer—80.0

Wind—SE

Cloud—100

Sea—100

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

Time.	Bar.	Therm.	Wind.	Cloud.	Sea.
8 a.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
11 a.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
2 p.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
5 p.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
8 p.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100
11 p.m.	30.0	80.0	SE	100	100

Today's Advertisements.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA, VIA AMOY.

THE Company's Steamship

"ZAFIRO,"

Captain Cobban, will be despatched for the above Ports on SATURDAY, the 8th inst., at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

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Temporary General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th August, 1891. [1077]

Hotels.

BAY VIEW HOTEL.

MR. OSBORNE begs to announce that this convenient half-way House on Shau-ki-wan Road is now open.

The HOTEL commands a beautiful View, and is situated in a cool and breezy spot.

There is a convenient landing jetty opposite the Hotel for launches.

The best Brands of WINES, LIQUORS, CIGARS, &c., always on Stock. MEALS can be served at any hour. Prompt attendance.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1891. [1726]

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BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the "River Steamer Wharves," is now open to receive Visitors.

The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.

The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in experienced hands.

Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc., of the best quality only.

A. F. DO ROZARIO, Manager.

Hongkong, 4th November, 1890. [1047]

Intimations.

FOR SALE!!

BEST STEAM COAL.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the sale of the WAN AN (Formosa) STEAM COAL, are prepared to supply the same in any quantities to suit buyers at VERY REASONABLE RATES.

SPECIAL QUOTATIONS TO LARGE CONSUMERS.

For Particulars, apply to

TUCK YUE & Co., No. 32, Praya Central. [1022]

NOTICE.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this Harbour some of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.

In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Undersigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.

D. GILLIES Secretary. [15]

NOTICE.

GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOMS

1, Ice House Road are suitably lighted to produce all styles of Portraiture in any weather.

CABINETS from \$5 a dozen.

CARTES DE VISITE from \$3 a dozen.

LIFE SIZED BUSTS in Colour, or Black & White.

IVORY MINIATURES, &c., &c.

NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG and the Coast Ports are always ready.

Hongkong, 24th September, 1890. [138]

MITSUBI BUSSAN KAISHA.

(Sole Agents for Mitsui Coal Mine.)

HAVE OPENED THEIR BRANCH HOUSE IN SINGAPORE

from 1st July Instant.

The Address—"Mitsui," Singapore.

New Building, Battery Road, Singapore. [1003]

I took Cold, I took Sick.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

RESULTS:

I take My Meals.

I take My Rest.

AND I AM VIGOROUS ENOUGH TO TAKE ANYTHING I CAN GET MY HANDS ON.

SCOTT'S EMULSION IS

